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Boys' and girls' clubs.



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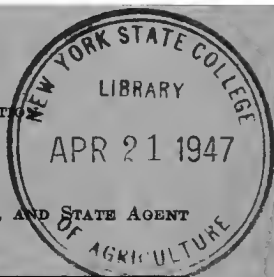
STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

BY
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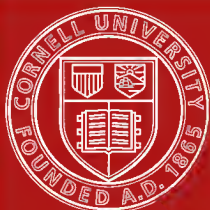


The State Officers for 1913.

THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, THE EXTENSION SERVICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, AND BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CO-OPERATING.

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State club champions who took the Washington trip.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, with the co-operation of the Extension Service of the Massachusetts Agricultural College and the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, presents herewith lists of premiums and rules governing clubs and contests, and suggestions for organization and promotion of boys' and girls' club work.

In carrying these plans into effect, we ask the co-operation of school boards, superintendents of schools, teachers, parents, patrons of husbandry, farmers' institute officials, fair associations, local or State organizations of women, boards of trade, chambers of commerce and other organizations interested.

It is desired that every boy and girl who cultivates a home or school garden or larger area, or is interested in poultry, home economics or school-ground improvement, or wishes to participate in any of these activities listed, will forward his or her name and address in order that our enrollment may include the names of all Massachusetts boys and girls who are interested and active along these lines, as this will make it possible for us to be of service to them in every way possible.

For membership cards, blanks, premium lists, place and date of club and fair contests, bulletins and club literature, address

O. A. MORTON, AMHERST, MASS.

Approved:

WILFRID WHEELER,

Secretary of State Board of Agriculture, Boston, Mass.

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APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS.

INTRODUCTION.

The aims of the club work are (1) to enlist the boys and girls of the State in interesting and profitable activities that will direct their attention and surplus energy into constructive endeavors instead of permitting them to drift into harmful activities; (2) to lead boys and girls to observe intelligently nature's laws and the ways in which these laws may benefit mankind; (3) to develop in each member the right attitude toward honest industrial achievement and a spirit of loyalty toward a vocation whatever it may be; (4) to offer an opportunity and a motive for acquiring skill in the use of tools and a practical knowledge of a few basic scientific facts pertaining to agriculture, poultry husbandry, home economics and allied activities; (5) to stimulate and direct the youthful impulse for serviceable citizenship by furnishing an opportunity and a motive for practical home and community service, and for thoughtful care of private and public property; (6) to arouse the present generation of country and city boys and girls to a more complete realization and appreciation of the advantages and possibilities of rural life in Massachusetts and other New England States; (7) to assist boys and girls, through organization and leadership, to think independently, to assume responsibilities and to follow systematically, persistently and logically to a successful termination a few constructive club projects selected and planned to increase their physical development, to broaden and quicken their powers of observation and discrimination and which, if properly executed, will not only increase their power to initiate but will also develop in them that type of moral fiber and spiritual stamina which has characterized prosperous rural people in all ages; (8) to offer to the teachers and parents an effective motive for

close and active co-operation in making the school a center for the acquisition and dissemination of information of immediate and practical value to the community, and to make the home the center for experimentation, demonstration and economic application of that knowledge in a way that will develop the boy and girl, help the home and increase many fold the usefulness of, and respect for, the school as a real educational center; (9) to assist the teachers in their effort to give every boy and every girl in the city as well as the country a definite program of country-life activities as a means of vocational guidance, that those who enjoy and are adapted to the work may pursue these lines more intensively in the high school, vocational school or college.

All movements for the betterment of country life should receive the support of all patriotic citizens, whether they live in the country or city, because the future of both is dependent upon the prosperity and stability of the rural sections. The philosophic truth uttered ages ago by a Chinese sage is still profoundly true: "The well-being of a people is like a tree; agriculture is its root, manufactures and commerce are its branches and its life; but if the root be injured, the leaves fall, the branches break away and the tree dies."

Sir Horace Plunkett, after a searching study of American conditions, is inclined to think that our great prosperous cities are not interesting themselves sufficiently in the betterment of the rural sections. He says: —

Has it been sufficiently considered how far the moral and physical health of the modern city depends upon the constant influx of fresh blood from the country, which has ever been the source from which the town draws its best citizenship? You cannot keep on indefinitely skimming the pan and have equally good milk left. Sooner or later, if the balance of trade in this human traffic is not adjusted, the raw material out of which urban society is made will be seriously deteriorated, and the symptoms of national degeneracy will be properly charged against those who neglected to foresee the evil and treat the cause.

The boys' and girls' club activities throughout the country are fundamental and far-reaching in their power to retard and counteract these dangerous and undesirable tendencies.



A club garden.



A stock judging contest.

For these, as well as many other reasons, we believe it is the duty of all interested in the education of the youth of our country to unite in this nation-wide and important movement to give every boy and girl in city and country alike an opportunity to realize the joy and satisfaction that comes to him or her who participates in honest toil.

Those who toil bravely are strongest,
 The humble and poor become great,
 And so from these brown-handed children
 Shall grow mighty rulers of State.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1908-13, INCLUSIVE.

The work was started in the spring of 1908 as a branch of the department of agricultural education in the Massachusetts Agricultural College. The initial step was a circular letter to the boys and girls of Hampshire County, inviting them to become members of a potato club. The invitation was given through the teachers of the grammar schools. More than 500 boys and girls responded. About 20 bushels of potatoes were distributed, giving five tubers to each member. These were sent free, along with instructions for planting and cultivating. A good exhibit was held at the fair of the Hampshire Agricultural Society in September of that year. About \$25 was distributed in premiums.

The enterprise proved to be so popular that a similar invitation was sent out in 1909. This time the work had the hearty indorsement and co-operation of the school superintendents in the county. The club membership reached more than 1,000 persons. This year exhibits were held in several places in the county for the better accommodation of members who wished to exhibit.

In 1910 the invitation was extended to the boys and girls in all parts of the State. A State-wide Corn Club was started in connection with the Potato Club. One-half pint of flint corn or four seed potatoes were sent to each club member. There were 5,600 members of the Potato Club and 3,200 members of the Corn Club. School superintendents, granges, women's clubs, agricultural societies and

other organizations became interested. Exhibits were held in many places throughout the State. Cash prizes and other awards were given, to the value of several hundred dollars. The popularity and value of the work seemed to justify its continuance.

In 1911 the Potato Club and the Corn Club combined contained about 10,000 members. More than 30 bushels of corn and about 150 bushels of potatoes were distributed. Branch clubs were organized, and exhibits were held in more than 100 towns and cities. Many other vegetables were planted in home gardens as a direct result of the influence of the Potato Club or Corn Club. It has been discovered that children are still raising potatoes from the progeny of the seed sent out by the college.

In 1912 two new features were added, — a bean club and the Junior Corn and Potato Growers' Club. The total membership was close to 15,000 persons. The number of schools and other agencies were correspondingly increased. Ten bushels of beans, 30 bushels of corn, and 200 bushels of potatoes were distributed. Branch clubs existed in about 140 different towns.

The Junior Corn and Potato Growers' Club was rather a unique feature. It was confined largely to Hampshire County. Each member was required to raise one acre of corn or one-half acre of potatoes. Accounts of cost had to be kept. In case of the potatoes, samples were tested for starch. Select half bushels were graded by a score card. In the case of the corn, samples were tested for the amount of dry matter. The prizes for the winners in the exhibits of this club were: first, a free trip to Washington, D. C., lasting four days; second, a free trip to Boston, lasting three days; third, a free week at the Massachusetts Agricultural College during Farmers' Week. The benefits of this club were so manifest that opportunity to join was extended to boys and girls in all parts of the State. The membership immediately rose from 30 in 1912 to over 400 in 1913.

An event of special interest in the history of the club work in Massachusetts happened during the year 1912. The General Court granted to the various agricultural so-

cieties the sum of \$200 each to be paid as premiums on agricultural products raised and exhibited by children and youths. This gave a great stimulus to the exhibition feature of the movement. Nearly all the societies organized children's and youths' departments. Standard premium lists were promulgated. School superintendents were invited to head the work in their respective localities, and in this way help to identify the club work with certain aspects of the school work. This will be the means, where properly handled, of making agricultural fairs more educational and of giving to schools a more pronounced flavor of reality.

During the year 1913 the work continued to expand, not only in the *number of members*, but in the direction of *financial support* and in the *new features* that have been added. The membership was nearly 20,000. More than 200 towns and cities were represented. Two cities—Brockton and Worcester—had more than 1,100 members each; four other cities had over 600 each; twelve other places were represented by memberships ranging from 209 to 486.

In the matter of financial support the grant of \$200 to each agricultural society was continued. Further aid was given by a grant of \$1,000 to the State Board of Agriculture for the promotion and development of district and State exhibits and contests.

The new features which have been initiated during the past year are tomato clubs, market garden clubs, canning clubs, poultry clubs, home economics clubs and school-ground improvement clubs. Exercises in judging stock, grain and vegetables have been encouraged from year to year. These are gradually taking a definite shape, and it is hoped that in the near future every town will have a group of young people engaged in this fascinating and most educative exercise.

This brief sketch reveals the fact that nearly every town in Massachusetts has felt the influence of the work of the clubs, that thousands of homes have received material benefit, and above all that more than 50,000 boys and girls have

been given some elementary instruction in the planting and care of plants and the tillage of the soil during the past six years.

The Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture has contributed \$1,500 this year to assist in defraying the expenses of directing and supervising the work. At the present time the State Board of Agriculture, the Massachusetts Agricultural College and the United States Department of Agriculture are co-operating in promoting the boys' and girls' club work.

AIMS AND OBJECTS.

To the Teachers, Superintendents and School Officials.

Our aim is to assist you in every way possible in your efforts to interest the boys and girls in the garden, farm and home activities that are of real educational and economic value to the child and the community, as well as to lead them to feel and appreciate the beauties, the elevating influences and the many advantages that may be enjoyed in the country. These activities are important and vital in the teaching of nature study, geography, language, drawing, arithmetic and other branches. They should not be thought of as separate from but as important home units which are to be used in reinforcing the regular work of the school.

We know from actual experience that all of the lines listed in this bulletin are of great value in the development, direction and education of boys and girls. Wherever the work has been done systematically and under the proper conditions it has brought the parents into more intimate and helpful relations to the work of the school; contributed directly to the healthful development of the children; increased their ability to concentrate the mind, to observe more accurately, and to think more logically; has given them a new sense of ownership and civic pride, more definite moral conceptions and higher spiritual convictions.

There is no unbelief:
Whoever plants a seed beneath the sod
And waits to see it push away the clod,
He trusts in God.



A prize plat of potatoes.



A potato club harvesting a crop.

From the practical standpoint these activities give the children skill in handling tools and performing work which contributes materially and directly to the maintenance of the family, as well as furnishing an opportunity to earn money during the summer without entering a factory. This work is of greater value now than ever before because of the new labor laws. If boys and girls between ten and eighteen years of age do not have constructive work to do they are quite sure to engage in activities that are detrimental and destructive to their moral and spiritual future.

If home or school garden, agricultural, poultry or domestic science work is to be organized in connection with your school, and is to succeed, leadership and supervision must be provided for. Visits to the homes by interested persons are much more important than prizes if funds cannot be secured for both. From two to five visits must be made by local leaders to each home where the projects are being carried out if the work is to be successful. We shall endeavor to visit all towns and cities entered in the State contests two or three times during the season. On such visits, those having the best home or club gardens will be visited, as well as all club members who are interested in the larger home projects. Wherever the agricultural, poultry, canning or home economics club numbers six or more members, we shall aim to hold a few regular club meetings, at which methods of procedure will be discussed and instruction given. Our advice is that each town select, by majority vote of all boys and girls interested, the most profitable activity, as potatoes, corn or market garden, and then all take the same unit of work. Wherever six or more girls wish to learn the most modern methods of canning tomatoes, sweet corn or apples, we will send a person skilled in this work to teach them. We will grade and brand all products which they wish to market or exhibit. The canning and bread making will be important units in the home economics club work, and will be carefully directed and supervised by people from our department.

The local leader, leaders or committee should assume general direction and supervision of the work with our co-opera-

tion, and should also raise money for tools, badges, trophies, etc., to be used as local premiums. The State Board of Agriculture will pay for the free trips, cups and prizes for city, town and school contests, and medals and ribbons in the State contests, as stated below.

We have always found local organizations, school committees and business men willing to assist financially wherever there has been enthusiastic leadership and sincere endeavor to make the work function in a practical way. The local exhibit always assists in bringing such support to a realization. Supervision during the summer, followed by a well-arranged local exhibit in the fall, will give continued success under normal conditions. As this is very practical educational work that functions at the home and broadens the regular work of the school, those interested should aim to secure an appropriation of money for its promotion and supervision.

We firmly believe that this club work furnishes a grand opportunity in a profitable way to make use of the natural tendency of boys and girls to work in groups and the natural desire to measure their achievements with those of other individuals or groups.

If you are interested in any of this work and wish to take it up, or if you are already one of the leaders, remember that the State pays us to co-operate with you and the local people in every way possible, and we are anxious to do it. However, it will devolve upon you to inspire, encourage and aid the boys and girls in organizing and planning, and in executing the plans. The results will be more than commensurate with your efforts because, as the work progresses, problems of discipline will diminish, the school work will improve, the pupils will develop a new interest, the community will become more helpful and, as a result, its support will be more liberal.

It is difficult to give set directions to be followed by each teacher or leader, as the success of the work depends largely upon your enthusiasm and originality. We offer the following suggestions:—

1. Study this circular carefully and explain the work to

the children. It is suggested that each teacher, in rooms where there are children between ten and eighteen years of age, give one lesson period to the consideration of each of these different lines of club work, and that each teacher in the lower grades explain carefully in regard to the school and home garden work, with especial attention to the literature to be sent later. The matter should be talked over freely and frankly, giving the pupils a chance to do most of the thinking; their opinions and their interest should be drawn out and aroused. Particular attention should be given to the part directed to the boys and girls and to the different club efforts. After the whole plan has been carefully presented and discussed and before making out the application card they should have time to consider carefully the line of work that appeals most to them, and to discuss with their parents or guardian the advisability of entering one of the club activities.

In guiding their choice try to have them select the club activity of greatest value to their section. This is vocationally correct, and will also lead to larger clubs interested in a common project, which will develop a team spirit to place their town ahead in the chosen crop. We shall report next year best results in the leading towns in corn, potato, market garden and other lines, and shall give premiums for such team work.

We urge that the club members in each school, town or city hold local club meetings occasionally under the direction of the teacher, superintendent or local leaders, to discuss topics of interest. It is an excellent idea to invite some local man or woman, who has made a success of some particular line, to tell the members something of their methods of achievement. While we do not insist on the local club meetings, we believe that the lesson to be learned at such meetings, and the general spirit of community co-operation that they will engender, are worth while. Whatever direction and training we give our boys and girls while they are in the plastic state will influence their future immeasurably.

The words "boys" and "men" in the following stanza

include the girls and women as well, as they always have contributed, and always will contribute, their part in the progress of the nation.

Earth's future glory and its hopes and joys
Lie in the hearts and hands of growing boys.
The world is theirs, to do with as they will;
The world is theirs, for good results or ill.
We soon must give into their outstretched hands
The mighty issues of our changing lands.
In Earth's large house they soon shall take their place,
A menace or a glory to the race.
Tremendous issues on Time's threshold wait;
We need strong men to guide the ship of State
Into the harbor of the next decade.
Look to the boys, from whom strong men are made.

2. When all who wish to join have filled out and signed the application cards, look the cards over carefully to see that all the blanks are properly filled out, and forward them to your superintendent of schools or the State leader, from whom additional cards may be secured if needed.

3. Visit each member's plat yourself if possible. At least, assume the responsibility of having some one who will visit the members several times during the summer, measure the plat, explain the report, supervise the harvesting and certify to the correctness of the final report.

4. Also arrange for visiting the children who have the small home garden, and see that some one judges the gardens and awards the ribbons which the State Board of Agriculture offers for best results.

5. If possible, hold an exhibit at your schoolhouse, or combine with others in holding a village, town or city exhibit of the products of the boys and girls. It is nearly always possible to secure the co-operation of the grange or other local organization in offering premiums and furnishing a hall for the local products. It is suggested that premiums be offered by local parties for the best results by members of the town club on areas of more than one-twentieth acre, and also for the poultry and home economics work. These premiums might be books, magazines, spraying outfits, tools, pure-bred poultry, dishes, etc.



Two Brockton boys in their market garden.



A well-arranged local exhibit.

The Massachusetts Agricultural College will send ribbons for best vegetables, flowers, poultry and home economics exhibited at school, grange or other local fair. The college will not be able to send ribbons for best exhibits in other lines; these should be furnished by local parties or societies.

6. Collect and send the best products to the boys' and girls' department of the agricultural fairs, as the fair officials are interested in this work and are willing to assist in promoting it. You should send to the secretary of the nearest agricultural fair for the premium list for boys' and girls' work.

7. Be sure to urge all the prize winners at the agricultural fairs to make similar exhibits at the State exhibit, which will be held each year in connection with the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. We should also aim to send exhibits to some of the national fairs and shows.

8. We wish to call your attention to the bulletin on school-ground improvement and the opportunity for making the club work and prize money won in the school contests reinforce this movement for better grounds and equipment. Some of the schools and towns that won money this year in the contests are to use it in making permanent improvements on the grounds, while others are to purchase tools and equipment for garden work.

To the Boys and Girls.

We wish to congratulate you who have been members of the clubs of 1913 for the excellent work you have done. Practically every one who began the work in the spring has harvested a crop.

The most difficult part for some of you has seemed to be keeping the accounts and data asked for in the reports. While this takes only a few minutes each day that you work, you neglect to do it at the time and then forget. We want you to acquire the habit of keeping accounts, because this is valuable in whatever business or profession you may take up later, and it is especially valuable to those of you who may choose farming or gardening, as it will enable you to select activities which are most profitable. How long could

a factory, store or bank run without keeping accounts? If it is necessary and profitable for those engaged in other lines of business to keep accurate accounts, is it not reasonable to suppose that the farmer will profit by using business methods and keeping farm accounts? However, I wish to say that a large per cent did nicely in this particular. Those who did not make final reports gave, in nearly all cases, this as the excuse. Even if you did not make a full report, or if you did, but failed to win a premium, you have turned your time into money or furnished products for the home while pursuing an interesting, helpful and educative project.

We want each one of you to lead off in organizing a large and active club in your school or neighborhood this year. Let us work together to place Massachusetts in the lead in this national movement. Keep accurate data and accounts during 1914.

Read the premium bulletin very carefully, and then select the particular line of work which appeals to you. Remember that we are anxious to have you join one of the clubs. The sooner you sign and send the application card, the more time you will have to study methods of doing the work. The members who follow closely the directions sent have the best results.

The members who plant one, two, three, four, five or six square rods, or the definite number of hills, should report on quantity and quality of products furnished the home, with value carefully estimated at each delivery by the parent (this estimate should be as near the regular market price as possible); the quantity sold, the price received and the name of the purchaser; the quality and quantity of vegetables on hand at the time the report is made out; the number and variety of products shown at local exhibits or agricultural fairs; and the number and value of premiums won. Books will be sent from the college in which to keep these data. Ribbons will be given in each town or city for best gardens. If there is a local exhibit, ribbons will be sent for best vegetables, flowers, poultry and home economics work exhibited. A Certificate of Merit will be awarded for exceptional work reported by the leader. The awarding of ribbons and cer-

tificates of merit will be left to the local leader or committee.

Remember that all who plant less than one-twentieth acre of land are members of the Home and School Garden Club. Those who plant one-twentieth or one-tenth acre of market garden products or tomatoes, one-quarter or one-half acre of sweet corn, one-eighth, one-quarter, one-half or one acre of potatoes, one-half or one acre of corn or grass are members of the agricultural or horticultural clubs, and are entitled to the free trips and other premiums as specified.

Those who are members of the poultry or home economics clubs will be considered on the same basis as the members of the agricultural or horticultural clubs, and will be entitled to the same premiums.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PREMIUMS.

The boy or girl who gets the best total results in Massachusetts in market gardening, tomato or sweet corn raising and canning, potato growing, corn production, hay production, poultry husbandry or home economics will be awarded as a premium a trip to Washington, D. C., and return, and five days' entertainment, with all railroad, sleeping car and other incidental expenses paid.

A boy or girl may pursue two lines of work during one year and select the best results in competition, but no member will be awarded two premiums in one year. This rule holds true in all the contests.

PREMIUMS FOR DISTRICTS OF THE STATE.

The State will be divided into districts according to the number of members engaged in any given club activity. Wherever there are from 50 to 100 members engaged in market gardening they will be considered as a district club. Those engaged in raising and canning tomatoes, sweet corn or other products will be grouped by districts according to the number of members. Potato growers will be grouped together by districts. Corn growers will compete together, etc. An effort will be made in grouping contestants to con-

form as far as possible to districts of approximately equal agricultural advantages.

The members in each activity, as market gardening, canning, potato raising, etc., who get the best results in that particular line in a given district will be given a free trip to some place of interest in New England. Those winning in the market-garden contest might spend a few days visiting the market-garden section around Boston. Those winning in the potato contest in the different districts might be given a trip in June or July to Aroostook, Me., to see the methods of raising potatoes in the most approved way. Those winning in the poultry contest might be taken to some New England poultry show, and also to some poultry farms, etc.

The one getting the second-best results in each district will be awarded a free week at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. These premiums will be awarded after the State championship premiums have been decided.

All winners of championship or district premiums will receive a Diploma of Merit and a National Emblem.

COUNTY PREMIUMS FOR CONTINUOUS EFFORT.

All club members who do not win a State or district premium, but complete the work and make the final reports, will receive a Certificate of Merit on which will be given the total number of credits which they have won. If they have carried on two projects, their best results will be entered to their credit. The one in each county of the State who accumulates the highest total credit or score above 100 points — the score card for that particular club activity will be used each year — for two years or a series of years will be awarded the free week at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. The member in each county who accumulates the highest total score above 200 in three or more years will be awarded the trip to some place of interest in New England. The member in each county who accumulates the highest total score above 300 in four or more years will be awarded the trip to Washington, D. C. Of course, any of these members are eligible to the regular premiums during any



A prize garden on the grounds of the Massachusetts Agricultural College.



An excellent individual exhibit.

year when their total score gives them first, second or third rank in any contest. This opportunity is open to those who do not win a major premium during any one year.

TOWN OR CITY PREMIUMS.

In each town or city, those who are members of the agricultural and horticultural clubs will be regarded as a single group, with the exception of those who raise tomatoes or other vegetables for canning. Those who participate in the canning work will be grouped with the members of the Home Economics Club unless each club is large enough to organize itself. The members of the poultry club will form a group.

In each one of these groups the member who wins the highest total score one year shall be president of that club the next year, if he or she continues to be an active member; the one who wins the next highest score shall be vice-president; the third shall be secretary; the fourth, treasurer; the fifth, chairman of the executive or visiting committee; and the next four in standing shall be members of the executive or visiting committee. Properly inscribed badges will be furnished each officer of a local club. In order to fill an office, the boy or girl must be doing some line of club work in that particular group, — agricultural and horticultural, canning or home economics or poultry.

STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS.

The State and county officers shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, chairman of executive committee, and four members of each executive committee.

The member who wins the highest total score in any one of the club activities in the State shall be president of the State Club; the next in rank shall be vice-president; the third, State secretary; the fourth, State treasurer; the fifth, chairman of the State executive committee; and the next four, members of the State executive committee.

State Officers of the Massachusetts Boys' and Girls' Clubs, 1913.

President, Ernest S. Russel, Hadley.

Vice-President, Edward F. Parsons, Amherst.

Secretary, Roger E. Peck, Shelburne Falls.

Treasurer, Walter T. Clark, Granby.

Chairman of the Executive Committee, Kenfred A. Root, Easthampton.

The county offices will be filled from county membership in the same manner, on the basis of actual achievement, regardless of the particular activity in which the total score is received. In other words, in the county and State organizations all the club members will be regarded as one body, and all offices will be filled on the basis of achievement during the previous year and active membership during the year of office holding. No member will be allowed to fill two offices during the same year.

Rules and regulations governing the State and county and town or city club organizations will be furnished during the year.

The aim will be to make these organizations real, live and active factors in broadening the conception of country life and developing interest and skill in practical agriculture.

As time goes on we shall aim to select from the State and county winners workers who will become paid leaders in the boys' and girls' work. The United States Department of Agriculture also aims to select for its work some of the most successful.

The movement is nation-wide, organized, progressive and continuous. It is a grand work, and its influence is sure to be felt. Come in and help to boost it.

We wish to emphasize the importance of team work, of co-operation, which is the next great step in the country-life movement. Read the following suggestions carefully, and then see if your local club cannot take up some co-operative activity this year. If you do decide on some line of work be sure to inform us of the object, the methods and later of the success.

CO-OPERATION FOR BUSINESS.

Products carefully selected, graded and neatly packed bring the highest prices. Honest packers are ready to stand back of their products and guarantee them. Very often the guaranteed package is labeled with the packer's name or with some distinctive brand, which not only shows that the producer is not ashamed of his goods, but informs the customer where he can get more of the same kind.

Why do not some of you organize a co-operative selling society? First, agree to sell all your crops together. Second, agree on some method of grading and packing so that the products sold will be uniform. Third, select a label or brand, as —

BERKSHIRE BOYS' POTATO CLUB. HAMPSHIRE GIRLS' CANNING CLUB.

Quality guaranteed.

Plainfield, Mass.

Quality guaranteed.

Hadley, Mass.

or some other, to put on every bag or box or car of products sold. Fourth, select a good market manager — one of the most business-like boys — to look up a market in a city near by; take orders from grocers, hotels or, better still, from private persons; advertise a little for private customers. Fifth, ship in as big lots as you can and put the club's label on the good products only. Sixth, divide the returns according to the amount each boy had. The secretary should keep a careful account of what each boy has.

You will get better rates and in two or three years you will have a name for selling fine products and will have no trouble disposing of all the good products you can raise at better than market prices.

A club might purchase all the fertilizer co-operatively. It might buy a spraying outfit and material to be used by the members. A girls' club might buy a canning outfit to be used at the club meetings and by individual members at their homes. Co-operative buying and selling is the way the best farmers and business men are handling their products to-day. It means honest goods and better prices, and it is good business.

CITY OR TOWN CONTEST.

GARDEN AND AGRICULTURAL WORK.

Premiums.

All cups will be of good quality and properly inscribed.

Cities, ...	First, large silver cup; second, small silver cup.
Large towns (population 7,500 or more).	First, large silver cup; second, small silver cup.
Towns (population less than 7,500), .	First, large silver cup; second, small silver cup.
Local leadership, ...	Gold, silver and bronze medals.
Best gardens, ...	Blue, red and yellow or white ribbons.
Best vegetable and flower exhibits, .	Blue, red and yellow or white ribbons.
Exceptional work by boy or girl, . .	Diploma of Merit.

Score Card.

1. Per cent of all children who have planted, cared for and harvested vegetables or flowers during the summer from plats smaller than a square rod, ...	500
2. Per cent of all children who have cultivated a plat of one to six square rods of vegetables or flowers, ...	200
3. Per cent of boys and girls who have cultivated at least 1-20 acre of tomatoes, 1-20 acre market-garden crops, 1-8 acre of potatoes, 1-2 acre of corn or grass, ...	300
4. Proportion of total individual exhibits made by boys and girls of the city or town at a school or other place within the city or town during the year, as compared with the total number having gardens or larger areas, ...	200
5. Certified list of premiums, not gratuities, won at an agricultural fair (computed on per cent basis), ...	200
6. Careful inspection of all gardens or larger areas made by local supervisors or leaders with written report on the year's work, ...	200
7. Photographs of best gardens or plats, ...	100
8. Photographs of local exhibits, ...	100
9. Clubs organized with by-laws, officers and an adult leader, ...	100
10. Organization of committee of local people to promote the work, ...	100
	2,000



A back yard in April.



The same yard in August. Won first prize in back-yard improvement contest.

Rules and Regulations.

1. All boys and girls contesting in club work must be under eighteen years of age on July 1 of the year in which the contest is held.

2. The score card given above is for the year 1914.

3. The per cent for city or town asked for in question 3 is to be determined by dividing the answer to question 2 by that given in question 1. The school census is taken each year and may be procured from the superintendent of schools or census enumerator.

4. A certified list of premiums won by boys and girls must be secured from the secretary of the agricultural fair where the exhibit is made, and kept on file by the leader, that they may be examined if necessary in awarding cups.

5. Score cards to be used by garden inspectors will be furnished at cost if desired, but these are not required.

6. These contests are not limited to school children, but may be participated in by any one under eighteen years of age living in the city or town.

7. All data asked for in the report must be as accurately given as possible. If the numbers are mere guesses the fact should be stated at the close of the report.

8. A written report of not more than 500 words made by the supervisor, leader or secretary of the committee or organization directing the work should be submitted with this report.

9. All data and reports must be forwarded as soon as possible after October 1.

10. Cups will be awarded and inscribed as soon as all reports are received and rated. The announcements will be made not later than December 1.

11. **All entries will close July 1.**

CITY, VILLAGE OR RURAL SCHOOL CONTEST.

GARDEN AND AGRICULTURAL WORK.

Premiums.

City schools, ...	\$20, \$15, \$10, \$5.
Village schools, 2 to 8 rooms, ...	\$20, \$15, \$10, \$5.
Rural schools, 1 room, ...	\$20, \$15, \$10, \$5.
Local leadership, ...	Gold, silver and bronze medals.
Best gardens, ...	Blue, red and yellow or white ribbons.
Best vegetables and flower exhibits, ...	Blue, red and yellow or white ribbons.
Exceptional work by boy or girl, ...	Diploma of Merit.

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Score Card for Small Gardens.

Selection of plat, difficulties overcome, general layout of garden, care in seeding, stand of plants, ...	30
Soil management (cultivation, etc.), ...	30
Quality of flowers or vegetables raised, ...	20
Quantity of flowers or vegetables raised, ...	20
	100

CLASS 2.

Area. — Larger home or school garden, ranging from 1 to 6 square rods. Adapted to pupils in grammar grades. Each should have an even number of square rods if possible.

Crop. — Vegetables, flowers or a combination of vegetables and flowers, 100 hills of potatoes, 100 hills of tomatoes or 100 hills of corn.

Score Card for Larger Gardens.

Selection of plat, difficulties overcome and general arrangement of garden, ...	10
Preparation of plat, selection of seed, method of fertilizing and planting, ...	10
Cultivation and management of crop, ...	20
Value of products raised, ...	40
Accuracy and neatness of accounts kept, ...	10
Written story, "My Garden,"	10
	100

Suggestions.

1. All who have the land should cultivate a garden area.
2. When land is available and circumstances permit, those in the grammar grades should have a good-sized and well-arranged garden of more than 1 square rod in area.
3. The 100 hills of potatoes, tomatoes or corn may form a part of a regular garden, or may be entirely separate from the garden area. When separate or in connection with other vegetables, the 100 hills are to be considered a part of the larger garden. If only the 100 hills are planted, the area would be reckoned in the school, town or city contest as a plat of 1 to 6 square rods.
4. Each member should have a definite plan, — to furnish the home with vegetables or flowers, to sell some to neighbors or local traders, to use some vegetables or fruit for canning, to have some of the choice products for exhibition purposes,



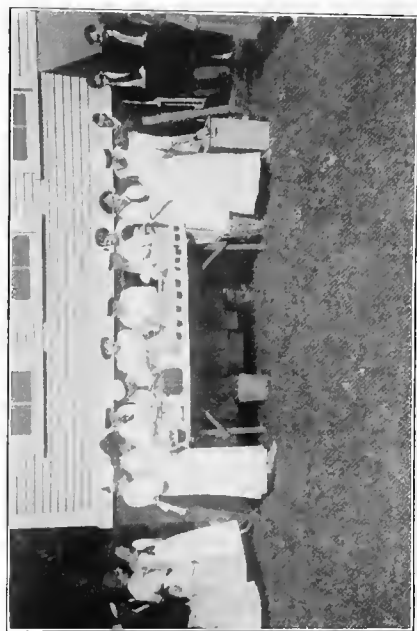
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2



3



4

FIGS. 1, 2 AND 3. — First canning club demonstration in Massachusetts. FIG. 4. — A canning club at work.

to secure seed from the most vigorous and productive plants, to test certain methods of cultivation, or certain varieties of seeds, etc.

5. Back-yard and front-yard gardens, or those near fences or buildings, should be so planned that they will cover defects, if there are any, present a unified appearance and add to the beauty and general landscape effect of the whole area or lot. If these ideas are carried out by any member, full credit should be given on the score card.

6. It is hoped that some of the members will set out strawberry, raspberry and blackberry vines, and possibly shrubbery and small fruit trees.

7. It is also urged that those who receive samples of carefully selected seed from the Massachusetts Agricultural College plant these for the purpose of selecting seed for the 100-hill contests, so that later they may enter the agricultural contest on the larger areas with their own carefully bred and selected seed.

8. It is suggested that each gardener measure and compute the area of the plat planted, that the quantity and market value of all the crops raised may be computed per square foot or rod. All those cultivating a garden under Class 2 — 1 to 6 square rods — are expected to keep an exact account of all vegetables or flowers raised and their market value, as judged by the parent or determined by the price received from the purchaser.

Rules and Regulations.

1. All club members must be under nineteen years of age.
2. All the work, except the plowing or spading of the plat, *must be done by the boy or girl* who owns the garden.
3. Each member is expected to read and follow instructions given, and to keep such records as are required.
4. Each member is expected to take carefully selected exhibits to local and agricultural fairs.

MASSACHUSETTS BOYS' AND GIRLS' AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL CLUBS.

Premiums.

Free trip to Washington, D. C. Free trip to places of interest in New England. A free week at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Diplomas of Merit and Certificates of Merit. National Achievement Emblems.

CORN CLUB.

Area. — One acre or $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

Crop. — Flint or dent corn.

Score Card.

Greatest yield per acre,	.	.	.	30
Best showing of profit on investment,	.	.	.	30
Best exhibit of 10 ears,	.	.	.	20
Best written story or account, entitled, "How I made my Crop of Corn,"	.	.	.	20
				100

HAY CLUB.

Area. — One acre or $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

Crop. — Hay.

Score Card.

Total yield in pounds, first mowing,	.	.	40
Total yield in pounds, rowen,	.	.	10
Quality,	.	.	20
Profit,	.	.	15
Story or account of experience,	.	.	15
			100

POTATO CLUB.

Area. — One acre, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre or $\frac{1}{8}$ acre.

Crop. — Potatoes.

Score Card.

Greatest yield per acre,	.	.	.	40
Best showing of profit on investment,	.	.	.	30
Best peck of potatoes,	.	.	.	15
Best story or account, entitled, "How I made my Potato Crop,"	.	.	.	15
				100

MARKET-GARDEN CLUB.

Area. — One-tenth acre or 1-20 acre.

Crop. — Any one or combination of vegetables.

Score Card.

General plan of garden, ...	10
Care and methods used, ...	20
Value of vegetables raised, ...	30
Profit on investment, ...	30
Written story or account, entitled, "My Experiences as a Market Gardener,"	10
	100

CANNING CLUB.

Area. — One-tenth or 1-20 acre; $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ acre.

Crop. — Tomatoes chiefly, with a few other vegetables desired on the 1-10 or 1-20 acre plats.

Sweet corn on the $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ acre plats.

Any club member who plants any one of these areas will be permitted to can anything raised on the farm or purchased in the market. A separate account of the number of pounds of tomatoes or sweet corn raised on the plats, sold or canned, will be required. The number of pounds of each kind of surplus product gathered from the farm and canned, or purchased and canned, with all items of expense, must be kept. The value of the surplus products from the farm will not be counted in the expense, as we wish to encourage the saving of these waste products. Each club member will be expected to put up at least 100 cans. Emphasis will be given to the importance of tomatoes, sweet corn and apples as profitable articles for canning purposes. Members may make canning a major line in the home economics work, working the two club activities together.

Score Card.

Quality of canned products, ...	20
Quantity, — total number of pounds of each variety used, sold and canned, ...	20
Variety of canned products, ...	20
Profit on investment, ...	20
Written story or account, entitled, "My Experiences in raising and canning Fruit and Vegetables,"	20
	100

Rules and Regulations.

1. Contestants must not be over eighteen years old on the first day of July of the year they enter the contest.

2. Each contestant must do all the work except the heavy team work, in which case he may hire such assistance as is absolutely necessary. Two contestants may exchange work on an equal basis if they desire. This fact should be reported, giving the number of hours so exchanged.

3. Each contestant must keep a record of all work done and write a short story of experience.

4. An accurate account must be kept, showing cost of enterprise. This will include rent of land, all labor, seed, fertilizer, spraying materials and other items of expense.

5. Each member must make two reports, one after planting and one after the crop is harvested.

6. Premiums will be awarded in each large club in accordance with the score card for that particular project.

7. The contestant, assisted by the parent or a neighbor, should lay out carefully, measure and stake the plat before planting, that no mistake may be made. This measurement should be verified by the superintendent of schools, or the teacher and one other disinterested person, or by a disinterested person appointed by the superintendent of schools or teacher, or by two disinterested persons selected by the contestant and approved by the teacher. The same persons who measure the plat should visit it occasionally and certify to the results in the fall. We suggest that, when it is convenient, two adults be elected by the local club to measure all the plats and oversee all the harvesting. All boundary stakes must remain in the original position until after the awards are made and announced. No allowance will be made for boulders, walls, fences, trees, swampy or poor land, or any irregularity or missing hills. The area must be all in one plat and rectangular in shape.

8. The harvesting must be done under the direction of a person or persons approved by the superintendent of schools or teachers, and who must not be a relative of the contestant. Only the rows that are *wholly within* the boundary lines as surveyed and staked are to be harvested in competition. If a row lies partly within and partly without the boundary line, that row must be thrown out. In other words, the line must in all cases fall *between* and not *on* the rows.

9. Two projects may be carried on by a contestant and full reports made. The judges will classify club members according to the results, but the contestant will receive credit for only the best. In other words, the only advantage of carrying on two projects is that the club member will receive credit for the most successful in the classification.

10. Premiums, school, town, city, county and State officers, and other suggestions are given in the letter to the boys and girls.

11. In awarding the premiums, the rules, regulations and score cards will be followed. Be sure to follow the rules so that you will not be disqualified by the judges.

12. All entries to the agricultural and horticultural club contests will close June 1. All reports, samples and other data relating to the potato, market garden and canning contests must be sent as directed on or before November 1. All reports, samples and other data relating to the $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre and acre corn contests must be sent on or before November 15.



Combining playground and garden activities, under the direction of the Worcester playground commission.

MASSACHUSETTS BOYS' AND GIRLS' POULTRY CLUB.

Premiums.

Free trip to Washington, D. C. Free trip to places of interest in New England. Free week at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Diplomas of Merit and Certificates of Merit. Settings of eggs, National Emblems and ribbons.

EGG-LAYING CONTEST.

Class 1, 6 hens or pullets.

Class 2, 12 hens or pullets.

Class 3, 25 hens or pullets.

Class 4, 50 hens or pullets.

Score Card.

Egg production,	40
Profits,	30
Reports,	15
Story,	15
	100

Rules and Regulations.

1. Members of this club shall be between the ages of ten and eighteen.

2. The period of competition shall be from Feb. 1 to Aug. 1, 1914.

3. There are four classes open for competition, 1, 2, 3, 4, and the number of hens or pullets entered in each class must be 6, 12, 25, 50, respectively.

4. The contesting fowls must be leg-banded (leg bands to be furnished by the college).

5. Members competing must own the fowls under their management.

6. The fowls may be of the club member's own raising, or may be obtained through a purchase or gift.

7. Standard-bred stock of one variety is recommended, but not required. Any variety or combination of varieties — pullets or hens — may be entered.

8. Layers must have from 5 to 8 square feet of floor space per bird.

9. Data must be kept according to record card and report blanks furnished.

10. Records every four weeks and final reports must be sent in promptly.

At the end of each four weeks the record card must be sent for inspection to Prof. John C. Graham, head of the Department of Poultry Husbandry, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass. These cards will be kept on file and will be used at the time of making awards.

MASSACHUSETTS BOYS' AND GIRLS' HOME ECONOMICS CLUB.

Premiums.

Free trip to Washington, D. C. Free trip to places of interest in New England. Free week at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Diplomas of Merit and Certificates of Merit. National Emblems.

List of Activities.

Cookery: —

	HOURLS.
Soup making, ...	20
Making and baking yeast bread, ...	40
Vegetables, ...	20
Cooking of meats, ...	20
Preparation of light dessert, ...	20
Making and baking pies, ...	20
Making and baking cake, ...	20
Making and baking cookies, ...	15
Making and frying doughnuts, ...	15
Preparing breakfast, ...	25
Cereal course, $\frac{1}{4}$.	
Main course, $\frac{1}{2}$.	
Beverage course, $\frac{1}{4}$.	
Preparing supper, ...	25
Main course, $\frac{1}{2}$.	
Dessert course, $\frac{1}{2}$.	
Canning and preserving, ...	40

Household management: —

Table setting, ...	5
Table serving, ...	5
Washing dishes, ...	10
Drying dishes and arranging in cupboard, ...	10
Sweeping and dusting, ...	20
Care of one's room, ...	20
Washing windows, ...	15
Cleaning floor, ...	10
Cleaning and filling lamps, ...	15
Building fire, ...	10
Blackening stove, ...	10
Assisting with washing, ...	15
Ironing, ...	20
Assisting in care of children, ...	15

Handwork: —	HOURS.
Sewing, darning or mending, ...	20
Basket work, caning, crocheting, knitting or weaving, ...	20
Total, ...	500

Score Card.

Quality of work as shown by exhibits, ...	30
Skill shown in bread making or canning, ...	20
Quality of work as shown by inspection, ...	20
Quality of work as shown by reports, ...	20
Story of experience, ...	10
	100

Rules and Regulations.

1. The contestant must be between ten and eighteen years of age at the date of the beginning of the contest.

2. Each contestant must agree to do all the work without any outside help. All the work must be done by the member. Mothers or friends may advise and supervise, but *must not do any of the work*.

3. Each contestant must check a total of one hundred and fifty hours of work selected from the five hundred given above. At least seventy-five hours of work must be selected from the cookery.

4. Each local club must designate by vote either bread making, forty hours, or canning, forty hours, as a common activity which all the members must participate in. Either the bread making or the canning, whichever is selected, will receive special direction by the State advisor, and will be judged at a club meeting. The other activities will be judged from reports, written story and home visitations.

5. Each activity checked must be given during the contest period the exact number of hours listed; *i.e.*, if cooking meats is one of the activities checked, the contestant must devote at least twenty hours during the six months to this work. The contestant must so arrange the program that the one hundred and fifty hours will be distributed over at least three months of time.

6. Each contestant must follow very carefully recipes, suggestions and literature sent.

7. Each contestant must keep a daily time card. This card must be signed by the parent or guardian and submitted each week to the teacher or leader. At the end of four weeks the card must be sent for inspection to Prof. Laura Comstock, Extension Professor of Home Economics, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass. These cards will be kept on file and used at the time of making awards.

8. All data asked for in the blank form must be kept by the contestant and included in the final report.

9. All members of the local or county clubs must attend meetings called by the leaders unless there is a good excuse for absence. No meeting will be called that requires long-time absences from home or much expense.

10. Each member will be required to bake at least 25 loaves of bread, if bread making is selected as the common club activity. For each lot of yeast bread made a record card must be kept and brought to the meeting at the time of the bread-baking contest, which will be at the close of the season. If canning is selected, at least 50 cans must be put up. These must be exhibited at the club meeting when the final canning contest is held.

11. The time of the contest will be from April 30 to October 31.

12. All entries must be made prior to April 30.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

All the agricultural fairs of the State offer premiums for boys' and girls' exhibits. By writing to the secretary of any of the fair associations premium lists may be secured. Their lists of premiums are liberal, and you are urged to assist by selecting your best products for the boys' and girls' department at the fair.

Each year a State fair or exhibit will be held to which you should send your best articles.

At nearly all the fairs premiums for judging stock, corn, potatoes, vegetables and cooking are offered.

Score cards and general information may be secured from local or county leaders, or from the State agent in charge of club work.

Good, Better, Best,
Never let it rest,
Till your Good is Better
And your Better's Best.

The National Club motto is, "To make the Best Better."

